

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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O 151330Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7715

UNCLAS DUBLIN 0515

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (COSGRAVE, LIAM) US, EI

SUBJ: OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE US OF IRISH PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE -
TOPIC THAT MAY COME UP IN KISSINGER-FITZGERALD TALKS

1. EMBASSY HAS HEARD THAT IT IS LIKELY THAT FOREIGN MINISTER

FITZGERALD WILL RAISE WITH THE SECRETARY THE SUBJECT OF SUMMER UNIVERSITY STUDENT EXCHANGES. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT FITZGERALD RAISED THIS SUBJECT WITH THE SECRETARY (WE BELIEVE ON JANUARY 6, 1975). FOR SOME YEARS IRISH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, BETWEEN 2300 AND 3000, HAVE BEEN ALLOWED INTO THE UNITED STATES FOR SUMMER WORK PROGRAMS. THE PROGRAM WAS CANCELLED IN 1975 BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE US AND CONSEQUENT UNEMPLOYMENT. AS A RESULT OF THE FITZGERALD-KISSINGER DISCUSSION, A TOKENPROGRAM INVOLVING ABOUT 300 STUDENTS WAS REINSTATED FOR 1975.

2. THE UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND TRAVEL BUREAU (USIT) IS NOW AGGRESSIVELY SEEKING REINSTATEMENT OF THE PROGRAM TO A LEVEL OF 2000 OR MORE. THEY HAVE TWO RATIONALES. FIRST, IT WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES DURING THE BI-CENTENNIAL YEAR. SECOND, SINCE THE FLOW OF US STUDENTS TO IRELAND IN THE SUMMER PERIOD HAS BEEN AT A LOWER LEVEL THAN THE FLOW OF IRISH STUDENTS TO THE US, USIT IS PREPARED TO OFFER SEVERAL HUNDRED PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO US STUDENTS, TO

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MAKE IT MORE TRULY AN "EXCHANGE" PROGRAM.

3. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THIS PROGRAM HAS A POSITIVE
EFFECT ON US-IRISH RELATIONS AND FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW IS A
VALUABLE ELEMENT IN OUR OVERALL EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS.
WE ARE, HOWEVER, FULLY AWARE THAT THE DECISION MUST BE MADE IN
WASHINGTON AND THAT THERE ARE DOMESTIC US CONSIDERATIONS THAT
MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.
CURLEY

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